



ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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Produced by the Kentucky Department of Education

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Education Commissioner Terry Holliday speaks with Gallatin County High School student Alex Kearns at last year's Operation Preparation event. Photo by Amy Wallot

Operation Preparation runs through March for 8th graders, sophomores

The Kentucky Department of Education's Unbridled Learning: College/Career Readiness for All initiative is designed to ensure every student is prepared for college and/or career by the time they graduate from high school.

Advising is a key strategy for reaching this goal. Yet, in Kentucky, school counselors face an average 450:1 student to counselor ratio, presenting challenges for establishing effective advising programs.

Operation Preparation is a joint effort of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Department of Workforce Development and provides a powerful opportunity for schools, students, parents and communities to collaborate in the process of effective advising and focus attention on the importance of planning for college and/or career.

This month trained volunteer community advisors will meet one-on-one with 8th- and 10th-grade students. The community advisor will use the student's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) (including career interest inventory and EXPLORE/PLAN results) to discuss the student's:

- career aspirations, required education/training and workforce skills

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High School students are encouraged to enter the Farm to School's Junior Chef competition. The deadline to enter the competition is March 11. Photo by Amy Wallot

Farm to School Junior Chef competition

Is your child a would-be chef? Agriculture Commissioner James Comer has invited all of Kentucky's future culinary champions to enter the first Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) Farm to School Junior Chef competition.

"Many people don't know how to prepare food at home," Comer said. "This competition will encourage students to learn how to create delicious, healthy dishes with Kentucky Proud products. At the same time, they will learn about agriculture and the importance of buying local foods."

The competition is open to students in grades 9-12 representing their high schools in teams of three to five members. Recipes must contain at least five local ingredients. Entries will be judged on taste; appearance; creativity; best and most use of local ingredients; and ease and affordability of preparation by school food service staff.

District competitions will be held in April, and regional

competitions are scheduled for May.

The regional winners will compete during the Kentucky State Fair in August in Louisville. Prizes will be announced at a later date.

Registration forms, parental release forms, entry fees and recipes must be submitted to the Kentucky Farm to School Program postmarked no later than March 11.

For more information on the Kentucky Farm to School Junior Chef Competition, including forms and rules, click [here](#) or call Tina Garland at (502) 382-7505.

The KDA's Farm to School Program connects local farmers to school districts to make fresh Kentucky Proud foods available to Kentucky children. Thirty-one Kentucky school districts that participate consistently in the Farm to School Program spent some \$280,000 on local foods during the 2011-12 school year. Those school districts serve approximately 325,000 students. A total of 84 school districts are members of the Kentucky Proud program, which helps Kentucky farmers market their products.

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- whether the student is on target to meet goals
- whether the student is taking the courses recommended to prepare for a successful future

It is anticipated that each session will take about 20 minutes.

The meeting is designed to provide both information and inspiration for the student to achieve college/career-readiness.

If Kentucky is to remain economically viable and globally competitive, it needs to be sure every one of its students is prepared and ready to meet the demands of the 21st-century.

Operation Preparation is your opportunity to help.

To volunteer as an advisor, contact your local school district.



College/Career Readiness Advising Month
March 2013



Zach Johnson holds a hybrid striped bass he caught during last year's Future Sportsman's Weekend at Rough River. Photo courtesy of Kentucky Department of Parks.

Future Sportsman's Weekend at Rough River planned for March 23

Rough River Dam State Resort Park will host its Future Sportsman's Weekend on March 23.

This weekend is dedicated to getting young people interested and actively involved in hunting, fishing and the great outdoors.

Hands-on activities include archery instruction, bowhunting activities, target shooting, fishing and casting and educational programming by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Activities begin at 9 a.m. and will run into the evening.

Overnight packages are available for \$135 plus tax and include Saturday night lodging for two, the buffalo and wild game buffet for two Saturday evening, breakfast for two on Sunday morning and registration for all activities.

The fee for participants in the activities is \$10. There are no age restrictions for most events (The minimum age for archery is 8.) Most events are aimed at 6-12 year olds, but all ages are welcome.

Call toll-free (800) 325-1713 for more information and to make reservations.

What will your child grow up to be?

You can help your child explore possible answers to what he or she wants to be via the [ACT Career Club](#), a prototype career discovery site in the [Whyville](#) virtual world.

Students ages 8-15 can visit the ACT Career Clubhouse, where they can have fun while gathering information on as many as 555 unique occupations, grouped into six areas of interest ranging from science and technology to the arts. By playing an interactive digital game called CareerQuest, students can investigate a wide variety of different occupations and potential careers - and discover professions that may surprise them.

Whyville is a web-based virtual world that provides educational experiences through games and role-playing. Whyville "citizens" design their own avatars to travel among an array of clubhouses, shops, and museums. They have the opportunity to play for "clams," the official Whyville currency.

Based on ACT's extensive research in education and the workplace, the Career Club is designed to be fun for students and a useful tool for parents and educators. Encourage your child to visit the ACT Career Club and begin the quest for his or her future occupation.

Watch this [video](#) for more information.

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Literacy Celebration Week begins today

First Lady Jane Beshear recently joined more than 4,000 4th graders from across central Kentucky for the inaugural "Feed the Mind - Kentucky" event to celebrate and promote reading and literacy across the state. The event kicked off Kentucky's Third Annual Literacy Celebration Week, March 4-8.

Students from 59 schools in 15 counties attended. The celebration featured Kentucky storyteller Octavia Sexton and book readings by Kentucky authors Judith Halasack and Peggy Cullen.

Each student at the event received a free book.

The Kentucky Literacy Celebration is a joint effort by Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD), the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and the First Lady's office. The goal is to highlight the importance of literacy for all Kentuckians, promote reading, celebrate literacy accomplishments and focus on the challenges Kentucky still faces as a state.

Many literacy events, such as family reading days, will take place in communities throughout Kentucky as part of the literacy celebration. The First Lady will visit schools, adult education centers and libraries this week to promote reading education and learning about community literacy programs.

To learn more about the CCLD and Kentucky Literacy Celebration and events, visit

www.kentuckyliteracy.org.

JANE BESHEAR'S STOPS INCLUDE (LOCAL TIMES):

Today

Bowling Green

9 a.m. – Western Kentucky University

Madisonville

10:50 a.m. – Ace Square Adult Literacy Center

Noon – ribbon cutting for the "Little Libraries" program

12:30 p.m. – Hopkins County Board of Education

Henderson

2:15 p.m. - Early Childhood Council at Henderson Community College

Tuesday, March 5

Owingsville

9:15 a.m. - Owingsville Elementary

10:20 a.m. - Bath County Memorial Library

Morehead

11:20 a.m. - Morehead State University

12:25 p.m. – Rowan County Adult Education Center

Wednesday, March 6

Louisville

9 a.m. - National Center for Family Literacy

10:15 a.m. - Westport Middle School/Public Library

Frankfort

11:45 a.m. - Kentucky State University

Thursday, March 7

Versailles

9 a.m. - Woodford County High School

Richmond

11 a.m. - Eastern Kentucky University

Lexington

12:30 p.m. - Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative

4 p.m. - Lexington Public Library Village Branch

5 p.m. - Dixie Elementary Family Literacy Night

Friday, March 8

Hazard

9:30 a.m. - KVEC/Hazard Community and Technical College

10:45 a.m. – LKLP Head Start/RIF Reading Site

Hyden

Noon - Leslie County High School